

will be less effective as a legislator solving complex controversial issues than a person guided by the views of 40,000 or 50,000 voters.

What is the margin needed to get into office in a primary? In the primary you need about 1000 votes.

THE PRESIDENT: You have about one-half minute.

DELEGATE BYRNES: I suggest to you that those statistics are far more revealing in fact than all the theory in the world that can be presented by general slogans which were suggested in the memo.

I think, in sum, Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, we have before us an issue which is clearly a divided one. It has divided us, and it has divided the population; it is certainly something that will suggest political opposition to the constitution.

This is a reality we must all face.

Above all, it is clearly not something by its very nature which suggests to us it is all perfectly right. It has a great number of defects, and deficiencies. We only hope you will recognize them and give the commission and the legislature the reasonable amount of flexibility they need in drawing the lines for the future.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Gallagher.

DELEGATE GALLAGHER: I yield two minutes to Delegate Hopkins.

DELEGATE HOPKINS: Delegate Byrnes referred to the foremost authority in the country on single-member districts. I listened to see to whom he was referring. I assumed it was the Sunpapers. I have been in touch with Professor Malcolm Jewel at the University of Kentucky, and he has been studying this specific subject for a long time, but for the last year he has actually gone into the states where single-member districts have been adopted, and he has, needless to say, much material on the situation.

He is familiar with the situation in Maryland, and I think it is fair to state that he has encouraged me to continue the fight for single-member districts. While we were speaking of authorities, I thought I should throw in this person who has worked on it in great depth, and quite recently.

Not being a lawyer myself, I will have to depend upon my personal experience in making up my mind on how to vote on this.

I have learned by working with men and women at election time, and inbetween, in political organizations, with civic organizations, and in dealing with candidates and elected officials.

When you get to the level of the state legislature, the average voters are quite frustrated. At election time it is hard to get them interested in who is running. There are so many candidates on the ballot that they just throw up their hands. The people at the precinct level want to know one or two that they can really find out about, and get to know, and vote for, and then feel they can come to these people in the General Assembly and know what they are doing. This is the feeling of the voters who bother to go and vote on election day.

The City of Baltimore realizes the problem of the people in the neighborhood who feel frustrated and removed from government. They are trying to take the City government back to the precinct level. Let us do the same thing on the state level, and give these people single-member districts.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Lord, you have slightly more than one minute to allocate.

DELEGATE LORD: I yield the time to Delegate Adkins.

THE PRESIDENT: Delegate Adkins.

DELEGATE ADKINS: I shall try to use slightly less. I shall try to address myself to any delegates who are undecided, if any there be.

I approached this problem with an open mind. I had no preconceived convictions. I have heard it said that single-member districts aid the Republicans. I have heard it said they aid the Democrats. I have heard it said that they aid parochial systems, and increase visibility.

I have seen the two senior officers in the legislature take opposite sides. I am convinced that there is no overriding decisive principle. I am further convinced that there are areas of this State which need single-member districts. I am convinced that there are areas of this State where single-member districts would be harmful in effecting fair and equitable representation.

I suggest that we leave the flexibility within these very narrowly prescribed limits where they should be with the General Assembly. If it is possible to have the best of all possible worlds, it seems to me that this would do it.